

The Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an
5 electrical outlet box comprising:
a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
means for mounting the wall structure of the bracket on a wall of an electrical
outlet box.

10 2. The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, further comprising a stop extending
outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said stop including a weakened portion
positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be
broken away from the wall structure of the bracket with the application of a force
sufficient to break the weakened portion.

15 3. The gangable electrical unit of claim 2, wherein the weakened portion
includes a plurality of perforations.

20 4. The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, wherein the wall structure includes
a top wall, a bottom wall, and an attachment side wall, with corners formed between the
top and bottom walls and the attachment side wall, wherein the corners are radiused in
order to provide a gap for accepting a fastener head when the wall bracket is coupled to an
electrical outlet box.

25 5. The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, wherein the means for mounting the
wall structure of the bracket on an electrical outlet box includes a clip extending outwardly
from the wall structure of the bracket, said clip being configured to engage a wall of an
electrical outlet box.

30 6. The gangable electrical unit of claim 5, wherein the clip is configured to
wrap around and grasp a front edge of a wall of an electrical outlet box.

7. The gangable electrical unit of claim 6, wherein said clip is resilient.

8. The gangable electrical unit of claim 6, wherein the clip is two such clips, said clips being spaced apart relative to one another.

9. The gangable electrical unit of claim 5, wherein said clip is L-shaped, with a first leg of the L-shaped clip being attached to the wall structure of the bracket and extending perpendicularly away from said wall structure, and the second leg of the L-shaped clip extending perpendicularly away from the first leg of the clip, said second leg configured to engage an inner surface of a wall of an electrical outlet box.

10. The gangable electrical unit of claim 9, wherein the second leg of the L-shaped clip includes a recess positioned at a point along the length thereof and an appendage extends inwardly on one side of the recess at an angle relative to the remainder of the second leg, said recess acting as a hinge, with said appendage configured for resiliently abutting an inner surface of a wall of an electrical outlet box.

11. The gangable electrical unit of claim 9, wherein the second leg includes a self-centering protrusion for centering the gangable electrical unit on an electrical outlet box, said self-centering protrusion being configured to abut a wall of the electrical outlet box, and the first leg includes a surface configured to abut a front face of the electrical outlet box to position the front face of the electrical box in alignment with a front face of the gangable electrical unit.

12. The gangable electrical unit of claim 5, further comprising an adhering element coupled to the wall structure of the bracket, said adhering element being positioned to adhere the bracket to a wall of an electrical outlet box.

13. The gangable electrical unit of claim 12, wherein the wall structure of the bracket includes a top wall, a bottom wall, an attachment side wall, and an open back, with the clips and the adhering element being attached to the attachment side wall, said clips and adhering element together adjoining the bracket to an electrical outlet box.

14. The gangable electrical unit of claim 1, wherein the means for mounting the wall structure of the bracket to a wall of an electrical outlet box is an adhering element

coupled to an outer surface of the wall structure of the bracket, said adhering element being positioned to engage a wall of an electrical outlet box.

5 15. The gangable electrical unit of claim 14, wherein the wall structure of the bracket includes a top wall, a bottom wall, an attachment side wall, and an open back, with the adhering element being attached to the attachment side wall.

10 16. The gangable electrical unit of claim 14, wherein the wall structure of the bracket includes three walls that partially surround the front opening.

15 17. The gangable electrical unit of claim 16, wherein one of the walls of the bracket is a partial side wall, said partial side wall having a front edge that is spaced from the front opening to define an opening in the partial side wall, wherein the adhering element is positioned on the partial side wall.

20 18. The gangable electrical unit of claim 14, wherein the wall structure of the bracket includes a partial side wall, only a portion of which extends to the front opening, and further comprising a pair of clips that extend outwardly from the front opening of the bracket from the partial side wall, said clips being configured to engage a wall structure of an electrical outlet box.

25 19. The gangable electrical unit of claim 14, wherein the adhering element is one of an adhesive, a double-sided adhesive tape, a putty, or a hook and loop tape.

30 20. A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
a clip coupled to the wall structure and extending outwardly therefrom, said clip being configured to grasp a wall of an electrical outlet box.

21. The gangable electrical unit of claim 20, wherein the clip includes a self-centering portion for centering the bracket on an electrical outlet box.

22. The gangable electrical unit of claim 21, wherein the self-centering portion is a protrusion that extends from the clip, said protrusion being configured to abut a wall of an electrical outlet box.

5 23. The gangable electrical unit of claim 20, further comprising a stop extending outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said stop including a weakened portion positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be broken away from the wall structure with the application of a force sufficient to break the weakened portion.

10 24. The gangable electrical unit of claim 20, wherein the wall structure includes a top wall, a bottom wall, and an attachment side wall, with corners formed between the top and bottom walls and the attachment side wall, wherein the corners are radiused in order to provide a gap for accepting a fastener head when the wall bracket is
15 coupled to an electrical outlet box

25. A gangable electrical unit for positioning an electrical component beside an electrical outlet box comprising:

20 a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening; and
an adhering element attached to the wall structure of the bracket positioned for adhering the bracket to a wall of an electrical outlet box.

25 26. The gangable electrical unit of claim 25, further comprising a stop extending outwardly from the wall structure of the bracket, said stop including a weakened portion positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be broken away from the wall structure with the application of a force sufficient to break the weakened portion.

30 27. A ganged electrical outlet box assembly comprising:
the gangable electrical unit of claim 5;
an electrical outlet box having a wall for contacting the gangable electrical unit, with the gangable electrical unit being attached to the electrical outlet box by the clip.

28. The ganged electrical outlet box assembly of claim 27, wherein the electrical outlet box has a wall structure that defines an outer periphery, and, when adjoined with the gangable electrical unit, the ganged electrical outlet box assembly has a continuous, rectangular outer periphery at the front openings thereof.

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29. The ganged electrical outlet box assembly of claim 27, further comprising an adhering element positioned on the wall structure of the ganged electrical unit, said adhering element positioned to engage the wall of the electrical outlet box.

10 30. A ganged electrical outlet box assembly comprising:
the gangable electrical unit of claim 14;
an electrical outlet box having a four-sided wall structure defining a front opening,
said electrical outlet box wall structure having an outer periphery and an interior, said
interior for receiving an electrical component, with the gangable electrical unit being
15 attached to the electrical outlet box by the adhering element.

31. The ganged electrical outlet box assembly of claim 30, wherein the adhering element is one of an adhesive, a double-sided adhesive tape, a putty, or a hook and loop tape.

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32. An apparatus comprising:
a bracket structure having a three-sided front edge, a routing portion configured to
route a low voltage electrical line, and a clip portion configured to engage a high voltage
electrical box to support said bracket structure in a position in which the electrical box and
25 said three-sided front edge together define a four-sided opening for access to a low voltage
electrical line at said routing portion.

33. The apparatus as defined in claim 32, wherein said front edge, said routing
portion, and said clip portion of said bracket structure are portions of a one-piece plastic
30 part.

34. The apparatus as defined in claim 32, wherein said clip portion of said
bracket structure comprises a pair of clips located at opposite ends of said three-sided front
edge.

35. The apparatus as defined in claim 32, wherein said clip portion of said bracket structure is configured to deflect elastically into a stressed condition upon movement into engagement with the electrical box, whereby said clip portion can exert a spring force that restrains movement of said bracket structure out of said position.

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36. The apparatus as defined in claim 32, wherein said bracket structure has a top wall, a bottom wall, and a free side wall which together define three sides of said bracket structure that extend rearwardly from said front edge, and further has an attachment side wall which defines a fourth side of said bracket structure with a front edge, part of which is spaced rearwardly from said three-sided front edge.

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37. The apparatus as defined in claim 35, wherein said attachment side wall is configured to overlies an adjacent side wall of the electrical box when said bracket structure is in said position.

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38. The apparatus as defined in claim 37, further comprising an adhesive element positioned on said attachment side wall, whereby said attachment side wall can be adhesively attached to the side wall of the electrical box.

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39. The apparatus as defined in claim 32, further comprising a low voltage electrical line routed by said routing portion of said bracket structure, and a high voltage electrical box upon which said bracket structure is supported in said position by said clip portion.

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40. The apparatus as defined in claim 39, wherein the routing portion defines a first size hole and further includes a break-away portion defining a second size hole that is larger than the first size hole, wherein the break-away portion may be broken away to define the second size hole.

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41. An electrical unit for coupling to a stud comprising:
a bracket including a wall structure that defines a front opening;
a mounting member coupled to the wall structure for mounting the wall structure to a stud; and

a stop coupled to the wall structure of the bracket along a weakened portion that is positioned between the stop and the wall structure, wherein the stop is configured to be broken away from the wall structure of the bracket with the application of a force sufficient to break the weakened portion.